

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-00326-CRC**

CITIZENS UNITED v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Christopher R. Cooper  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 02/13/2018  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff****CITIZENS UNITED**

represented by **Jeremiah Lee Morgan**  
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V.

**Defendant****UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE**

represented by **William Mark Nebeker**  
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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
02/13/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5330259) filed by CITIZENS UNITED. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons to the Attorney General, # <u>3</u> Summons to the Dept of State, # <u>4</u> Summons to US Attorney, # <u>5</u> Exhibit A, # <u>6</u> Exhibit B, # <u>7</u> Exhibit C)(Morgan, Jeremiah) (Entered: 02/13/2018)
02/13/2018	<u>2</u>	LCvR 7.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by CITIZENS UNITED (Morgan, Jeremiah) (Entered: 02/13/2018)
02/14/2018		Case Assigned to Judge Christopher R. Cooper. (zsb) (Entered: 02/14/2018)
02/14/2018	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zsb) (Entered: 02/14/2018)
03/08/2018	<u>4</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by William Mark Nebeker on behalf of UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Nebeker, William) (Entered: 03/08/2018)
03/23/2018	<u>5</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer re <u>1</u> Complaint, by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 03/23/2018)
03/23/2018		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>5</u> Defendant's Motion for Extension of Time to Answer. Defendant's response to the complaint shall now be due by April 9, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 3/23/2018. (lccrc2) (Entered: 03/23/2018)

03/23/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Answer due by 4/9/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 03/23/2018)
04/09/2018	<u>6</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 04/09/2018)
04/09/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. Since the requirements of LCvR 16.3 and Rule 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not apply, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall confer and file a joint proposed schedule for briefing or production by April 23, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 4/9/2018. (lccrc2) (Entered: 04/09/2018)
04/10/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Proposed Briefing Schedule due by 4/23/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 04/10/2018)
04/20/2018	<u>7</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS UNITED. (Morgan, Jeremiah) (Entered: 04/20/2018)
04/24/2018		MINUTE ORDER: In light of <u>7</u> the parties' joint status report, the parties shall file a further joint status report by May 7, 2018 proposing a further schedule for production and, if applicable, briefing. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 4/24/2018. (lccrc2) (Entered: 04/24/2018)
04/24/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 5/7/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 04/24/2018)
05/07/2018	<u>8</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Nebeker, William) (Entered: 05/07/2018)
05/08/2018		MINUTE ORDER: In light of <u>8</u> the parties' joint status report, the parties shall file a further joint status report by May 23, 2018 updating the Court on the status of production and proposing a further schedule for production. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 5/8/2018. (lccrc2) (Entered: 05/08/2018)
05/08/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 5/23/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 05/08/2018)
05/23/2018	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration Stein)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 05/23/2018)
05/30/2018		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the resource constraints and production orders in other cases detailed in the Stein declaration attached to the <u>9</u> 5/23/18 Joint Status Report, the Court hereby orders that the State Department process at least 300 documents per month. To reduce the number of potentially responsive documents that require processing, the Court encourages Plaintiff to narrow its request by identifying specific email senders and recipients (or other relevant key words), as it has done in other FOIA requests before this Court. It is further ordered that the parties file joint status reports every 90 days, beginning August 30, 2018. So ordered. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 5/30/2018. (lccrc2) (Entered: 05/30/2018)
05/30/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 8/30/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 05/30/2018)
06/06/2018		MINUTE ORDER: The Court revises its prior Minute Order of May 30, 2018 to reflect that the government is to process 300 pages per month, not 300 documents. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 6/6/2018. (lccrc2) (Entered: 06/06/2018)
08/31/2018	<u>10</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Joint Status Report</i> by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Joint Status Report, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 08/31/2018)
09/04/2018		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>10</u> Motion for Extension of Time to File Joint Status Report and Accepting Late Filing. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 9/4/2018. (lccrc2) (Entered: 09/04/2018)
11/28/2018	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS UNITED. (Morgan, Jeremiah) (Entered: 11/28/2018)
01/17/2019	<u>12</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Stay , Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>All Deadlines</i> by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Pfaffenroth, Peter) (Entered: 01/17/2019)
01/17/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>12</u> Defendant's Motion to Stay. All deadlines in the case shall be stayed pending renewed funding. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on

		1/17/2019. (lccrc2) (Entered: 01/17/2019)
02/01/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the restoration of appropriations, the stay in this case is lifted. The parties shall provide a joint status report on or before February 8, 2019, which shall include a proposed schedule for future proceedings. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 2/1/2019. (lccrc2) (Entered: 02/01/2019)
02/05/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 2/8/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 02/05/2019)
02/08/2019	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS UNITED. (Morgan, Jeremiah) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
02/08/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of <u>13</u> the parties' joint status report, the parties shall file a joint status report every 90 days, to begin on or before March 1, 2019. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 2/8/2019. (lccrc2) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
02/08/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/1/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
03/04/2019	<u>14</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Joint Status Report</i> by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Joint Status Report, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 03/04/2019)
03/05/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>14</u> Motion for Extension of Time to File Joint Status Report and accepting for filing the attached joint status report. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 3/5/2019. (lccrc2) (Entered: 03/05/2019)
05/30/2019	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Nebeker, William) (Entered: 05/30/2019)
08/28/2019	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Nebeker, William) (Entered: 08/28/2019)
09/03/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of <u>16</u> the parties' joint status report, the parties shall continue file a joint status report every 90 days, with the next due on or before November 26, 2019. The next status report shall detail the number of responsive documents that still require processing and an estimate of how long it will take State to complete the production given its processing rate for this request to date. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 09/03/2019. (lccrc3) (Entered: 09/03/2019)
09/04/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/26/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 09/04/2019)
11/26/2019	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS UNITED. (Morgan, Jeremiah) (Entered: 11/26/2019)
12/02/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Especially in light of Plaintiff's apparent unwillingness to narrow the subject matter of its "all emails" FOIA request by negotiating relevant search terms, which is a common practice in FOIA litigation, the Court declines to alter the production schedule in this matter. The parties shall, consistent with the Court's September 3, 2019 Minute Order, file a further joint status report on or before February 24, 2020. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 12/2/19. (lccrc2) (Entered: 12/02/2019)